Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 HA-05 /059 W
----------028261 152032Z /47
P R 151936Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5841
INFO USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS MONTEVIDEO 0533

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, UY
SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION TO TODMAN SPEECH

USIA FOR IOP/M, ILA

REF: MONTEVIDEO 0532

1. ALL MONTEVIDEO MEDIA GAVE PROMINENT, HEAVY PLAY TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN'S SPEECH AT THE CENTER OF INTER-AMERICAN RELATIONS, STRESSING HIS ADVOCACY OF "A MORE MODERATE, BALANCED AND REALISTIC" U.S. CAMPAIGN ON HUMAN RIGHTS.

2. BOTH PRO-GOVERNMENT MORNING PAPERS FEBRUARY 15 PUBLISHED THE TODMAN STORY UNDER COLORFUL FRONT-PAGE BANNER HEADINGS, "TODMAN: DISCRIMINATORY POLICY ON HUMAN RIGHTS; LOOKS AT LATIN AMERICA SERIOUSLY" (EL PAIS) AND "TODMAN: 'TO MODERATE' CAMPAIGN ON HUMAN RIGHTS (LA MANAN). FULL TEXT SENT REFTEL. INTER-ESTINGLY, INDEPENDENT EL DIA IGNORED THE STORY COMPLETELY.

3. ON ITS PRIMETIME EVENING NEWSCAST FEBRUARY 14, CHANNEL 10 FOCUSED ON TODMAN'S STATEMENT ON U.S. POLICY AND NEED FOR "MODERATE, BALANCED AND REALISTIC HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN." CHANNEL 4 ALSO PICKED UP SAME THEME ON ITS TOP-RANKING NEWS-CAST 30 MINUTES LATER. RADIO MONTE CARLO AND MOST OTHER RADIO
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STATIONS HAVE AIRED THE TODMAN STORY CONTINUOUSLY SINCE LAST NIGHT.

4. NOR SURPRISINGLY, THE PRO-GOVERNMENT MEDIA HAS PICKED UP AND EMPHASIZED THESE AND OTHER ASPECTS OF THE TODMAN STATEMENT WHICH SERVE TO PROVE THE GOU'S ARGUMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND HAVE BEEN SIMILARLY

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SELECTIVE IN THEIR USE OF HUMAN RIGHTS COMMENTS TODMAN
MADE TO THE PRESS FOLLOWING THE FORMAL ADDRESS.

5. MEDIA PARTICULARLY EMPHASIZED FOLLOWING THEMES: (A) USG
PRACTICES DOUBLE STANDARD IN HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES, (B) USG
HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY DECISION OFTEN MADE WITHOUT FULL KNOWLEDGE
OF ALL FACTS IN A GIVEN COUNTRY, AND (C) USG INTERFERES IN
INTERNAL AFFAIRS. THESE ARE SAME THEMES GOU CONSTANTLY THROWS
UP IN ATTACKING USG HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY.

6. SOME QUOTES CITED, SPECIFICALLY ONE QUOTING TODMAN
ADVOCATING A "MORE MODERATE, BALANCED AND REALISTIC" USG
HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN APPARENTLY WERE TAKEN FROM PRESS
CONFERENCE FOLLOWING SPEECH. WE WOULD APPRECIATE FULL TRANS-
CRIPT OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOLLOWING THE SPEECH.

7. WE PLAN DISTRIBUTION OF SPANISH TEXT OF SPEECH AS RE-
CEIVED ON TODAY'S WIRELESS FILE TO ALL OPINION LEADERS, BOTH
IN AND OUT OF GOVERNMENT.

8. LATEST CHRISTOPHER SPEECH ON HUMAN RIGHTS, WHICH WE CIR-
CULATED TO MEDIA HAS DRAWN NO PRESS PLAY, BY COMPARISON.
EMBASSY SINCE MADE WIDE DISTRIBUTION CHRISTOHPER SPEECH TO
PRIMARY AUDIENCE CONTACTS.
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Draft Date: 15 feb 1978
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Film Number: D780070-0236
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ISecure: 1
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